

Forest Preserve District of DuPage County

Environmental Services

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FAX TRANSMISSION COVER SHEET

To: MIKE BELLOT
Firm: USEPA
Fax: 312-353-5541
From: JOE BENEDICT
Re: BLACKWELL

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MIKE:

ATTACHED IS THE ENTIRE WRITTEN RECORD
ON THE ALLEGED LEACHATE COLLECTION SYSTEM. THIS
WAS ALSO DURING THE TIME WHEN WE WERE THINKING
OF PLACING THE LANDFILL IN THE GRAVEL PIT.

Copy being sent by regular mail yes _____ no ✓

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CC - S&B, Chicago
- Mr. Spafford, Chief, Bureau of General Sanitation

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July 2, 1965

Mr. H. C. Johnson
Superintendent
DuPage County Forest Preserve
811 West St. Charles Road
Lombard, Illinois

Dear Chuck:

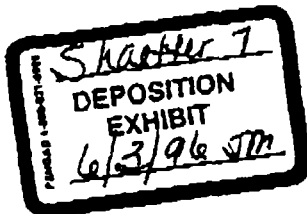
Attached is a memorandum concerning the operation of a sanitary landfill site at the Blackwell Forest Preserve. We trust that this information will be useful to you.

Sincerely,

Jack

John R. Sheaffer
Resources Planning Officer

JRS:db
enc.



Development of a Refuse Disposal Site at the Blackwell
Forest Preserve

Any refuse disposal facilities that would be located at the Blackwell Forest Preserve must be integrated with the overall recreational development program currently underway to assure that the immediate and long term plans of the preserve are not adversely affected. To achieve this end, and landfill operation should be of a relatively short term duration -- 3 years -- and should be under the supervision of the DuPage County Forest Preserve District which has formulated and is currently carrying out the program to transform the 400 acres of derelict land into a spot of natural beauty and a prime recreational area. The actual operation of the refuse disposal facility should be carried out by the Department of Public Works personnel. Of course, the Forest Preserve man in charge of the development program currently underway will provide overall direction.

A potential site for the location of a sanitary landfill within confines of the Blackwell Forest Preserve exists immediately north of the drainage ditch which flows from the lake under construction westward to Springbrook Creek. Approximately four (4) acres of waste land could be raised by carrying out a sanitary landfill operation and later develop the site as a recreational meadow.

The natural materials at the proposed site have been largely covered during the operation of the gravel pit. Test borings drilled for lake construction suggest that there are approximately 25 to 50 feet of clay till between the land surface and the top of the dolomite bedrock which is used as a water supply in the immediate area. It will be necessary to test drill the site to establish precisely the physical environment. Engineering and operational procedures based upon this information would insure a safe and efficient operation.

As stated in a letter of August 23, 1963, the Sanitary Water Board recognizes the possibility of providing protection measures and procedures to prevent water pollution at refuse disposal sites that contain potentially unfavorable geologic environments. These measures would include continuing operation controls such as sealing of the cells of refuse, diversion of landfill runoff, and the treatment of all leachings from the refuse site. The hole located approximately 300 feet west of the site is down gradient and could be developed as a sump pit where any leachates could be collected and treated.

To carry out refuse disposal in a way that will not result in ground water pollution would require that disposal takes place above ground rather than in excavated trenches where the potential for ground-water saturation would be greater. In addition, the use of clay layers to seal the refuse from water on all sides to prevent the movement of contaminants into the surface and ground waters would be necessary. A large quantity of clay needs to be excavated from the proposed recreational lake site to achieve the desired water depths. The removal of the clay could be coordinated with the operation of the sanitary landfill. The clay would be trucked from the lake area to the disposal site and used to build above ground trenches into which the refuse would be disposed, compacted, and covered.

The site proposed contains approximately four acres of area which could be filled to a depth of approximately 180,000 cubic yards of air space which could adequately contain the refuse delivered to the county landfill site over a three year period. The site in question abuts against high ledges on two sides which makes it conducive to a good sanitary landfill operation. The above ground trenches would be kept as narrow as practical and dumping restricted to a small area to assist in the control of odors and blowing paper.

In addition, a double line of snow fences would need to be employed to trap any paper that might flow from the pit and which would litter the recreational facilities currently being developed.

The operation of a sanitary landfill in the general manner outlined above would be compatible to the overall development plans for the Blackwell Forest Preserve and the following benefits would be achieved:

1. A disposal site with sufficient capacity to meet the counties need over a three year period.

2. Enhancement of the recreational and wild life potential of the lake by the excavation of the clay from the lake area to achieve deep water.

3. The problem of water pollution is mitigated by keeping the refuse above ground level and by sealing the refuse in clay cells.

4. The program would demonstrate how Public Works and Forest Preserve programs can be coordinated in a compatible manner, and

5. A portion of waste land will be transformed into a recreation meadow.

Operational Problems

If the refuse disposal operation is carried out as outlined above it will be necessary to use two trucks to move the clay from the lake area to the disposal site to construct the cells in which the refuse would be disposed. Although this would increase the cost of operating, the multiple benefits that will accrue appear to justify the added expense. The possibility of raising the dumping rate to \$1.75 per ton should be considered by the board. This is approximately

the rate currently charged by private disposal operators. It is likely that this site will be more accessible than the current one and will generate more business. Hard all weather roads already lead to the site so there will be little expense.

The men and equipment at the existing site are under-used, i.e., they are moving only about 1/3 of the material which they could be reasonably expected to move. Thus, the clay excavation and operation can be accomplished without additional personnel and equipment other than the two trucks.

Compiled and Submitted by
John R. Sheaffer
Resources Planning Officer
Northeastern Illinois.
Planning Commission
Metropolitan Area